Using reverse auction procedure for certain state purchasing

HB 3242 by Pitts (Estes)

DIGEST: HB 3242 would have required the Texas Building and Procurement Commission to

use the reverse auction procedure for at least 10 percent of the dollar value of open-market purchases, except for certain professional services, and to report to the governor and Legislature if that requirement were not met. Under current law, the reverse auction procedure takes anonymous bids during a scheduled period, from an hour to two weeks. The bill would have prohibited the commission from using the reverse auction procedure in purchasing construction, remodeling, repair,

or maintenance services for buildings or other public work projects.

GOVERNOR'S REASON FOR VETO: "House Bill No. 3242 would mandate that all state agencies use a reverse auction to make 10 percent of all purchases, other than professional services. I believe the Texas Building and Procurement Commission, which generally makes state agency purchases, should have the flexibility to determine the most efficient and cost

effective means of making purchases."

RESPONSE: Neither Rep. Jim Pitts, the bill's author, nor Sen. Craig Estes, the Senate sponsor,

had a comment on the veto.

NOTES: HB 3242 passed the House on the Local, Consent, and Resolutions Calendar and

was not analyzed in a Daily Floor Report.